Report Submitted by the Working Group on Border Management

3092. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether working groups of border management has submitted report to Government; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and action taken by Government on the basis of the said report?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF *STATE* IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI M. M. JACOB): (a) and (b): Yes, Sir. The Border Management Group has identified infiltration of foreign nationals, smuggling, cross border movement of drugs and narcotics substances and cross border movement of terrorists and insurgents as major problems and has recommended a systematic and multidimensional approach. The measures taken to check infiltration from bangladesh includes:—

(i) Intensification of border patrolling and surveillance by the Border Security Force;

(ii) Erection of OP Towers along the border for better observation.

(iii) Troops deployed on the border have been supplied with night vision devices, binoculars, goggles, twin telescope, hand held search lights etc.

(iv) Country/Moter boats have been provided for border patrolling in riverline areas;

(v) Speeding up the project to construct roads and fence along sensitive stretches of Indo-Bangladesh border;

(vi) Sanction of the Scheme of Prevention of Infiltration of Foreigners and Mobile Task Force in the affected States; and

(vii) Introduction of the Scheme to issue identity cards in the States of Assam, Mizoram and Tripura.

Illegal Immigrants From Bangladesh and Pakistan

3093. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the estimated total of illegal immigrants from Bangladesh and Pakistan in the country till date; and

(b) what steps Government are taking to send them back?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI M. M. JACOB): (a) and (b): While the number of illegal migrants from Pakistan is not significant, there are a large number of Bangladeshi migrants illegally living in different parts of the country. It is difficult to estimate their exact number as they enter surreptitiously and are able to mingle easily with the local population because of ethniclingual similarities.

The measures include intensification of patrolling by the Border Security Force, strengthening of its Water Wing, accelerated programme of construction of Border Roads and Fencing, strengthening of the Prevention of Infiltration of Foreigners (PIF)/Mobile Task Force (MTF) Schemes, issue of Identity Cards to people residing in border areas, computerisation of Visa Control System, etc. There are standing instructions to State Govts, and U.T. Administrations to detect and deport the illegal migrants.

Number of Foreigners in the Country

3094. SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total estimated number of foreigners in the country in general and in Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat, Maharashtra and Tripura in particular as per latest assessment, and how many of them are refugees and how many are illegal immigrants; and